The bibliography assembles the titles of almost one hundred publications bearing upon sectional anatomy. The wealth of anatomical details contained in the atlas is made available by an excellent index, by means of which the exact location in the plates of any structure may be readily found. The index also serves to correlate the new and old terminology, by giving both names where confusing differences exist.

An accurate knowledge of the topographical relations of many parts of the body is, manifestly, so important, that not only the serious student of human anatomy, but also, and perhaps even more, the clinician should heartily welcome this important addition to his means of acquiring such information. As a piece of bookmaking, the work is admirable and a conspicuous example of the results obtainable by coöperation of authors, artist, and publishers. All of these are to be congratulated; moreover, this congratulation may be extended to American Anatomy, on the production from its ranks of a contribution of such high merit. G. A. P.

Salvarsan in Syphilis and Allied Diseases. By J. E. R. McDenagh, F.R.C.S., Surgeon to Out-patients, London Lock Hospitals. Supplement to System of Syphilis. By Power and Murphy. 150 pages, 11 illustrations and 3 plates. London, Oxford University Press, 1912.

This work fills an important place in the literature of syphilis of today as it describes in detail all that is known of salvarsan to date. The author describes salvarsan physically and to some extent chemically, explains its injection, estimates its potency, and impartially states its limitations, and demonstrates its advantages by reporting actual cases in point.

He enumerates the toxic symptoms sometimes experienced and believes that generally they are due to faulty technique in the administration and to failure to properly diagnosticate contraindications for its use in the patient; which, however, he claims are very few in number.

Fatal cases are ascribed to faulty technique and to the failure to lay the blame where it belongs, as a rule, namely in the disease. Contraindications are disposed of in four pages as being composed of serious visceral diseases.

In discussing the methods of administration the author gives precedence to the intravenous and advises repeated doses, given in pure *freshly* distilled water at body temperature.

The question of the Wassermann reaction and how it is influenced by salvarsan, is discussed in detail and examples are given showing the reaction between the two under various conditions of medication and stages of the disease.

The treatment is applied in syphilis in all its stages and severities and conclusions drawn from actual reported cases treated by the author. The conclusions, based on facts and not theories, are as follows: (1) Salvarsan kills the spirochetes in the chancre, mucous patch, and condylomas. (2) in the secondary stage, repeated injections of salvarsan will give a negative Wassermann; (3) in the tertiary stage a negative Wassermann is obtainable and lesions clear up. But a negative Wassermann is not always to be desired here.

The drug is also useful in some of the other diseases due to protozoa and conditions like scurvy, malaria, psoriasis, etc.

If patients with lesions of vital organs or non-syphilitic nervous lesions are excluded; if only half doses be given in syphilitic nervous disease, and if patients be examined thoroughly beforehand, no fear need be entertained about using salvarsan, provided, the water used is freshly distilled the second time. E. L. E.

THE MECHANISTIC CONCEPTION OF LIFE: BIOLOGICAL ESSAYS. BY JACQUES LOEB, M.D., Ph.D., Sc.D., Member of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. Pp. 232; illustrated. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1912.

A SERIES of ten essays, which as the title of the book indicates, have as their general tendency an attempt to analyze life from a purely physicochemical viewpoint. The subjects presented are the significance of tropisms for psychology, comparative physiology of the central nervous system, pattern adaptation of fishes and the mechanism of vision, physiologic morphology, process of fertilization, artificial parthenogenesis, prevention of the death of the egg through the act of fertilization, role of salts in the preservation of life, and the influence of environment. It is impossible for the reviewer, because of lack of training in this phase of biology, and therefore of lack of power of interpretation, to present the general biologic argument of these essays. One or two conclusions may, however, be summarized for the benefit of a medical audience.

In the opinion of Dr. Loeb, if life phenomena can be explained in physicochemical terms, "our social and ethical life will have to be put on a scientific basis, and our rules of conduct must be brought into harmony with the results of scientific biology." This it may be remembered is the argument presented by the late Christian A. Herter in his "Biological Aspects of Human Problems."

The chapter on "The Significance of Tropisms for Psychology"